

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 /069 W

----- 031109

R 291720Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8434

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16652

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECN, ENRG, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN VIEWS ON THE SUMMIT

1. POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI TOLD US TODAY THAT ITALY WOULD NOT RPT NOT GO TO THE SUMMIT UNLESS AND UNTIL THE OTHERS AGREE TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE REGIONAL FUND. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN 1972 AT THE SUMMIT IT WAS DECIDED TO SET UP THE REGIONAL FUND AND IN 1973 IN COPENHAGEN THIS DECISION WAS RECONFIRMED. AT COPENHAGEN THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY INSTRUCTED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS ON THE REGIONAL FUND WITHIN 15 DAYS BUT NOTHING HAPPENED. IF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEET AGAIN AND NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT THE REGIONAL FUND, THE GOI FEARS FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS IN ITALY. DUCCI

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COMMENTED THAT ITALIAN JOURNALISTS ARE WELL AWARE OF THESE MATTERS

AND ARE SURE TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT ITALY IS NOT GETTING ITS DUE FROM THE EC IF IT FAILS ONCE AGAIN TO GET ACTION ON THE REGIONAL FUND. DUCCI STRESSED THAT THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED ARE NOT SENSATIONAL SINCE THEY ARE NOW TALKING IN TERMS OF 1.5 BILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (UOA) TO BE SPENT OVER THREE YEARS OR THIS WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL BUT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS THE SALVATION OF THE COUNTRY.

2. DUCCI COMMENTED THAT IT WAS "NOT UNLIKELY" THAT SCHMIDT WOULD SOFTEN HIS POSITION ON THE REGIONAL FUND. THE ITALIANS RECOGNIZE THAT SCHMIDT WANTS TO GET MORE OUT OF THE SUMMIT THAN SIMPLY THE RIGHT TO MAKE DEUTSCH MARK PAYMENTS TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS. THE GERMANS WAS A COMMON ENERGY POLICY WHICH WILL PERMIT THE FRENCH TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE IEA POSITION. DUCCI INDICATED THAT THE UK IS BLOCKING THE COMMON ENERGY POLICY AND NOTED OVERTONES WHICH SUGGEST THAT WITH THE NORTH SEA OIL COMING ON STREAM, THE UK WANTS TO MAINTAIN AN INDEPENDENT POSITION.

3. WITH REGARD TO INFLATION, DUCCI REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE EASY TO PRODUCE A PAPER DEPLORING INFLATION BUT THAT FINDING A SOLUTION IS MOST UNLIKELY. HE DID NOT SEE MUCH PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF BRITAIN ON THE REGIONAL FUND BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THE EC WILL NOT PAY THEM ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER THE REFERENDUM. THE UK APPARENTLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SUMMIT ISSUE A LIST OF PRINCIPLES TO THE COMMUNITY NEGOTIATORS DEALING WITH THE BRITISH. THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HOWEVER JUST STARTED AND THE FRENCH ARE NOT DISPOSED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE UK THIS EARLY.

4. DUCCI APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WOULD BE PAPERED OVER AND THE SUMMIT WOULD TAKE PLACE ON SCHEDULE. HE EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST SUMMIT AND THAT FUTURE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS WOULD BE ROUTINE, PROBABLY IN MAY AND OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR. IF THEY COULD BECOME JUST ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS IT IS HOPED THAT THE JOURNALISTS OF EUROPE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE GREAT THINGS EVERY TIME THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MET. THIS WOULD TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITIES OF FAILURE.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE DUCCI'S STATEMENT THAT ITALY WOULD NOT BE AT THE SUMMIT IN THE ABSENCE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REGIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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FUND, WE HAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION FROM ANOTHER SOURCE IN THE MFA THAT ITALY IS RESIGNED TO GOING BUT WITHOLDING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES AT LAST PREPARATORY SESSION DECEMBER 2. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME16652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740347-0598
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974113/aaaaabua.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN VIEWS ON THE SUMMIT
TAGS: ENRG, IT, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005